

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A processing apparatus for an object to be processed comprising:
 - a partition that defines an outside space area in which a container hermetically containing an object to be processed and having a lid is conveyed, and an inside space area in which the object to be processed taken out from the container is conveyed,
 - an opening part provided in the partition, through which the two space areas are communicated with each other,
 - a door mechanism that can close the opening part,
 - a lid opening-and-closing mechanism provided at the door mechanism which is horizontally movable, and capable of opening and closing the lid of the container located at a predetermined position in the outside space area under a situation wherein the door mechanism closes the opening part,
 - a driving unit that moves the lid opening-and-closing mechanism away from the container relatively to the door mechanism,
 - a cover member that defines a driving-unit arrangement room, in which the driving unit is contained, in the door mechanism, and
 - a gas-discharging mechanism that discharges a gas in the driving-unit arrangement room.
2. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 - an end edge of the opening part on a side of the inside space area forms a plane inclined against the partition, and
 - the door mechanism is hermetically connectable with the end edge and movable in a plane direction of the partition.
3. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
 - a sealing member is provided at the whole circumference of an end edge of the opening part on a side of the outside space area, and
 - the lid opening-and-closing mechanism is hermetically connectable with the sealing

member by an action of the driving unit under a situation wherein the door mechanism closes the opening part.

4. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
the sealing member is a member having a Y-shaped section.

5. (Currently Amended) A processing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
the door mechanism has a pressure-adjusting mechanism that can gradually open through
~~one space~~ the outside space and ~~the other space~~ the inside space with respect to the door
mechanism in order to ~~leisurely~~ slowly reduce a difference pressure between ~~the~~ both spaces to
substantially zero.

6. (Currently Amended) A processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
the door mechanism has a pressure-adjusting mechanism that can gradually open through
~~one space~~ the outside space and ~~the other space~~ the inside space with respect to the door
mechanism in order to ~~leisurely~~ slowly reduce a difference pressure between ~~the~~ both spaces to
substantially zero.

7. (Currently Amended) A processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein
the door mechanism has a pressure-adjusting mechanism that can gradually open through
~~one space~~ the outside space and ~~the other space~~ the inside space with respect to the door
mechanism in order to ~~leisurely~~ slowly reduce a difference pressure between ~~the~~ both spaces to
substantially zero.